

**CHAPTER NO. 85**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 585**

**By Representatives Shepard, Buttry, Walker**

**Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 16**

**By Senators McNally, Burchett**

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 3, Part 5, relative to who may make a determination and pronouncement of death.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-3-511, is amended by adding the following new subsection (d):

(d) A registered nurse may make the actual determination and pronouncement of death under the following circumstances:

(1) The deceased was a patient at a hospital as defined by § 68-11-201(23);

(2) Death was anticipated, and the attending physician has agreed in writing to sign the death certificate. Such agreement by the attending physician must be present with the deceased at the place of death;

(3) The nurse is licensed by the state; and

(4) The nurse is employed by the hospital providing services to the deceased.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: April 21, 2003



JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



JOHN S. WILDER  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May 2003



PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR